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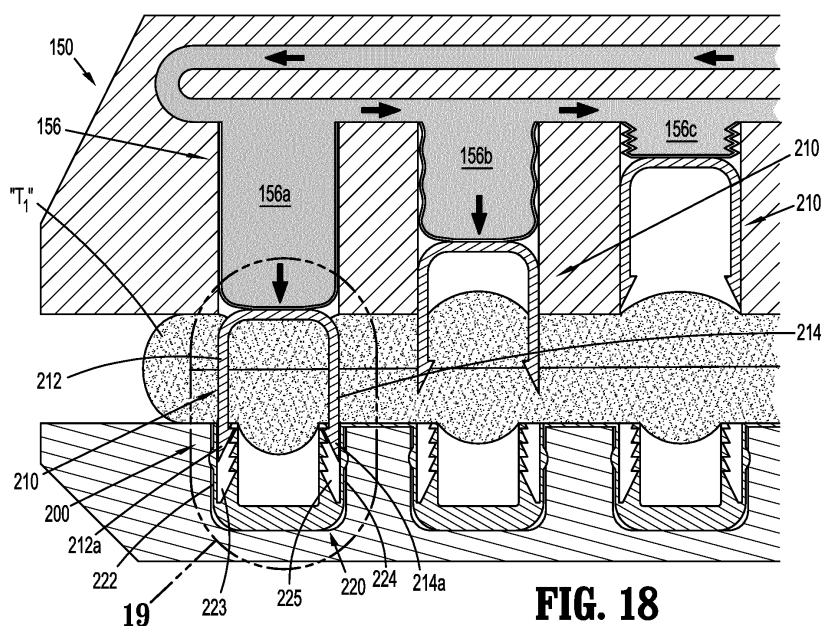
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(54) **GAS-POWERED CONTINUOUS FEED SURGICAL FASTENING DEVICE**

(57) A stapling device includes a handle assembly, an elongate body, and an end effector. The elongate body includes a proximal portion and a distal portion. The proximal portion extends distally from the handle assembly. The end effector is operably disposed on the distal portion of the elongate body. The end effector includes a first jaw member and a second jaw member pivotally secured relative to the first jaw member. The second jaw member is movable between an open position and a closed po-

sition. The first jaw member includes at least one pusher bag. The at least one pusher bag is transformable between a deflated condition and an expanded condition. The stapling device further includes at least one staple member releasably supported within the first jaw member. Transformation of the at least one pusher bag from the deflated condition to the expanded condition ejects the at least one staple from the first jaw member.



**FIG. 18**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61B
<p><del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del></p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		12 September 2023	Nemchand, Jaya
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>&amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

**see sheet B**

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

**1–9**

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number

**EP 23 17 3369**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

**1. claims: 1-9**

The remaining technical features of invention 1, representing the difference over the non-novel common matter, is at least one staple member releasably supported within the first jaw member.

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**2. claims: 10-15**

The remaining technical features of invention 2, representing the difference over the non-novel common matter, is a staple member chain extending through the elongate body and into the first jaw member.

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# ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 23 17 3369

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82